

## ASU Volleyball Slams Loyola in Season Opener

Written by Jennifer Clark  
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Appalachian State University volleyball opened their season with a dominating 3-0 win against Loyola on Friday at the Holmes Center. The Mountaineers (1-0) swept the

visiting Greyhounds (0-1) in their home opener and first match of the Appalachian Invitational. App State took an early lead in the first set at 8-3, not allowing Loyola to build any momentum as the Mountaineers rallied to a 25-15 victory. The Apps hit a scorching .393 on the attack, led by a combined effort of Lindsey Sauls and Jess Keller, who each tallied 4 kills.

It would be all App from there as Loyola could never redeem in the final two sets. The Mountaineers dominated to a 25-14 victory in the second and sealed the match with a 25-20 third set. The Black and Gold edged Loyola on both side of the ball, proving to be the stronger team as they recorded a .319 attack percentage for the match and kept Loyola to a dismal .019 percentage on the night.

Appalachian did not turn down the heat in the second set, beating Loyola by 11 points (25-14), as the Mountaineers never trailed and tallied 13 blocks. The Greyhounds were able to take their first lead of the game (2-3), but Appalachian fought back, point for point. With the game knotted at 12, the Mountaineers combined to notch four-straight points and regain the lead (16-12), despite a late effort by Loyola.

Sauls led all players with nine kills, while both Keller and Emily Corrigan tallied 8 kills a piece. Paige Brown led the team with 27 assists and Meghan Mahoney chipped in with 22 digs. The Mountaineers committed just seven errors on 94 total attacks and finished with 12.5 blocks to Loyola's one.

For day two of the Appalachian Invitational, the Mountaineers meet Sam Houston State at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, followed by Norfolk State later that same evening.

**Photo Courtesy: Lindsey Sauls, ASU Athletics**